

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, December 30, 1880.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

\$2.00, in advance; or, \$2.50 if not paid within three months of date of subscription. All payment must be made in cash, and on your bills attached to this paper.

The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for payment.

A subscriber desiring to change his post-office address, or to discontinue his paper, must communicate to us the name of the office to which it has previously been sent, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Postage Free to all subscribers.

Collectors' Notices.

Mc. G. S. Atwell, Agent for the Farmers, will call upon our subscribers in Androscoggin and Oxford counties during January.

Mr. F. P. Mallard will call upon our subscribers in Penobscot county during January.

Notice to Delinquent Subscribers.

We are now making up the accounts of subscribers to the *Maine Farmer*, WHO ARE INDEBTED FOR THE PAPER FROM THE YEAR 1875 TO THE PRESENT TIME, to be placed in the hands of an attorney for collection. Opportunity will be given to all who are thus in debt to make payment to their agent or to this office, at our advertised rates, or before January 1, 1881. If delayed beyond that date the accounts will be left for collection.

The State Grange.

Formerly it was the custom among Sir Knight Templars to gather together at their respective commanderies throughout the world at a given hour on Christmas day, and, in their own way, commemorate the birth of Christ. For many years the custom has not been observed, but on last Christmas it was revived in the United States, where it had long since disappeared. A general election of officers occurs only once in two years and the time of election is the odd year. This was our first attendance upon the State Grange, and we never saw the business of any deliberative body transacted with greater intelligence, better dispatch and more perfect harmony. The debates were sometimes sharp and spirited, but were invariably conducted with courtesy and with a proper regard to the feelings and views of others. We have been in attendance upon more than twenty sessions of the State Legislature, and the debating and administrative ability shown by the members of the State Grange at their last session, in our judgment, was fully equal to that by any Maine Legislature during that period.

The value is well demonstrated that farmers, with the training which the Grange gives, are as well qualified to fill important positions either in the councils of the State or Nation, as those of any other profession. We do not mean to say that the Grange is the only training school where the farmer can obtain the requisite knowledge for the transaction of public business, but of all the farmers' organizations at the present time, we believe, it is the best adapted to that end.

We have frequently advocated the Grange for its social advantages. We have said that to many of our young men and women especially, farm life is pell-mell and unattractive, and that any proper means calculated to break up its monotony and isolation, should be encouraged. The Grange is certainly well adapted to this purpose. It invites the young and old of both sexes to join as soon as they arrive at an age to comprehend the nature of an obligation, and a part of its work is to afford recreation and amusement suited to their age. Its work is varied and suited to every age. In many portions of our State, farm houses are situated so far apart that communication between neighbor and neighbor is by means frequent, and social advantages under ordinary circumstances are of but little account. It is to such rural neighborhoods that the Grange is admirably adapted. Its secret character renders it attractive to many, and also enables the respectable to keep out the well known vicious and unworthy. It is real work however, is no secret; it is the elevation, socially, morally and intellectually of the great producing class of farmers and is best exemplified in that forcible and terse expression, "by their fruits ye shall know them."

We witnessed the fruits of this intellectual culture at the State Grange at Waterville. There were men from all parts of the State born upon the farm, brought up to hard labor and with few advantages of education in their younger days, discussing questions of political economy and public policy in manner to do credit to a number of any of the so-called learned professions. And the only intellectual training these men have had has been in the Grange. Beginning in the subordinate body where none but acquaintances were present, their ideas they have gained strength and confidence by practice, until they are able to discuss in the meetings in which they are interested with that ease, and many of them with a clearness and force that surprised as well as gratified us. It is of immense importance to the great farming interest to have farmers that can speak. In his behalf, and nothing can do more to place husbandry in the first position where it properly belongs, than to have its claims ably advocated by the tillers of the soil.

The Order was started as a movement against the extortion of railway corporations and in the western States where the producers had chiefly suffered from this cause, and by the efforts of the patrons, many important concessions were obtained. This having been accomplished the Order has somewhat declined in the west. Opposition to railroads has never been a distinctive feature or the Order in New England, its claims to public recognition resting mainly upon its advantage for social enjoyment, moral and intellectual culture, and for co-operation in trade, in all which its benefits have been apparent from the beginning. Its effect has been to bring producers and consumers into more intimate and friendly relations, also enabling the farmers to buy directly from the manufacturers without the intervention of middlemen. Judging from what we heard at the State Grange, the co-operative store in Portland has been of great benefit to the members of the order who have had an interest in it, enabling them to purchase corn, flour, grain, fertilizers, groceries and farm implements, at but little advance from wholesale rates. Through this means the members of the order have learned what the wholesale or manufacturer's prices are, and are thus able to guard against and successfully resist the extortions of middlemen.

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The founders of the Order wisely ignored party politics and the Grange is still neutral ground where farmers of any and all political parties can meet and deliberate for their mutual good. There have been seeming efforts from time to time, to drag the Grange into the arena of party strife, but there has hitherto been conservatism enough to successfully resist all such efforts. In our opinion the perpetuity of the order depends largely upon its standing clear of politics and carefully guarding its doors against those who would use it for the advancement of their own selfish aims. There are always more or less of chronic office seekers who are ready to unite with any movement that promises to further their selfish interests, and again there are others whose political

bias is so strong that it manifests itself on every occasion. But the great body of patrons is true to their non-political principles, and so long as this element is in the ascendancy, the Order is safe.

The State Grange is in harmony with the other Agricultural organizations, as its action at Waterville abundantly proves. Reference was made to the courses of the Board of Agriculture, and the work of the State Agricultural Society, and the work of the State Legislature, for a liberal support to the College of Agriculture and the Medical Arts, and asking for a change in the law so that hereafter a majority of the Board of Trustees shall be agricultural farmers. The discussion upon this subject was intelligent and the views expressed enlightened and liberal. This institution was regarded as one in which the Grange has a peculiar interest, and the members of the Order will see to it that it is properly sustained and supported, and that its management shall be in the interest of Agriculture.

The farmers in the State Legislature have always had it in their power to do this, but harmony of views and concert of action have generally been wanting. In fact, some of the most persistent opposition the State College has ever had is the opposition of the State Colleges, and the Legislature has come from the farmers themselves. We trust that this may be no longer; if there are faults in its management, let them be corrected, but don't let its usefulness be impaired for lack of the necessary means.

A Masonic Custom.

Formerly it was the custom among Sir Knight Templars to gather together at their respective commanderies throughout the world at a given hour on Christmas day, and, in their own way, commemorate the birth of Christ. For many years the custom has not been observed, but on last Christmas it was revived in the United States, where it had long since disappeared. A general election of officers occurs only once in two years and the time of election is the odd year. This was our first attendance upon the State Grange, and we never saw the business of any deliberative body transacted with greater intelligence, better dispatch and more perfect harmony. The debates were sometimes sharp and spirited, but were invariably conducted with courtesy and with a proper regard to the feelings and views of others. We have been in attendance upon more than twenty sessions of the State Legislature, and the debating and administrative ability shown by the members of the State Grange at their last session, in our judgment, was fully equal to that by any Maine Legislature during that period.

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Among other sentiments offered were the following:

"The Grand Encampment of the United States;" "The Grand Commandery of Masons;" "The Masonic Commandery;" "To Our Brethren wherever assembled throughout the world."

Least one who has never been under the influence of the "mystic tie" might imagine that the sentiments offered were drunk in that "wine which is a mocker," but we know favorably a long time, selected a wife with whom heres was well known, and we have been separated from her for sufficient reason, but owing to a legal obstacle raised by her own kindness of heart rather than by his fault was unable to obtain a divorce. For many years a number of us have probably have taken place between him and Miles Evans never took place, but the two lived and were regarded as man and wife. This is all I can say of the case. The wife of Mr. George Henry Lewes, a well known philosophical writer, between whom and herself a strong attachment was formed, was separated from her husband by his infidelity with a woman of low birth. The wife of Mr. George Henry Lewes, a well known philosophical writer, between whom and herself a strong attachment was formed, was separated from her husband by his infidelity with a woman of low birth.

"The First Christmas Creation's Second Birth, it heralds, The Star of Bethlehem, the beacon of human liberty and enlightened progress, The Templar's hope and herald of Peace on Earth, the bright and final promise of complete and enduring victory."

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The PUBLIC PRINTING. Mr. John D. Defrees, the Public Printer, in his annual report to the President of the Senate shows that the actual expenditures on account of the printing, binding, engraving, lithographing, &c., for the year 1880, of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, as executed at the Government printing-office, amounted to \$2,034,750. The aggregate amount of expenses for paper was \$425,780. In the meantime, however, it is to be noted, that the amount of lithography paid for Hitherto and engraving was \$180,507. The amount expended on account of the public binding was \$455,592. During the second session of the 46th Congress there were printed for the Senate 1,649 bills and joint resolutions, 216 executive documents, 104 miscellaneous documents, 785 reports of committees, 15 resolutions and 5 confidential documents. For the House there were printed 3,800 bills and joint resolutions, 90 executive documents, 47 miscellaneous documents, 9 resolutions, and 1,763 reports of committees.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Winthrop Dairy Association, held at their cheese factory, December 23d, the officers reported that the factory had run from the 3d day of May, 1880, till the 18th day of September, 1880; receiving during the time 496,777 pounds of milk, and making 55,329 pounds of cheese. Amount of pounds of milk to make a pound of cheese, during the whole season, 83-100 pounds. The cheese has been nearly all sold at good prices, because the cheese stands high in the country, having received both first premiums at the last State fair at Lewiston, and the New England fair at Worcester, Mass. This is a cardinal doctrine of all Masonic bodies. The gathering was a notable one and the members observed impressive; we trust the custom will never be permitted to again lapse, but will be observed on each recurring anniversary of the birth of Our Savior.

NOMINATIONS BY THE GOVERNOR. Gov. Davis has made the following nominations: Judge of the Municipal Court at Farmington—James B. Severy.

Constables for Boston: Enforcement of the Liquor Law—Alfred Merrill, Dexter; Willard H. Moore, Bangor; Warren C. Daggett, Anson.

Notary Public for Oxford county—Geo. L. Reed, Mechanic Falls.

Judges of the Peace and Quorum.

Frank A. Hobson, Limington; Joseph T. Robbins, Oakham Plantation; Edmund T. March, Winterport; John W. Thing, Portland; Archib. L. Talbot, Lewiston; James F. Holland, Houlton; C. F. Jeffords, Portland; Isaac D. Cushman, Portland; Nathan F. Houston, Belfast; William Allen, Kennebunk.

Franklin—Charles W. Fuller, So. Livermore; Fessenden B. Turner, Whitefield; George H. Weld, Dixfield; John Estes, Limon; E. C. Dow, Calais; James Richards, Lebanon.

Concord—Thomas Littlefield, Lewiston; Henry C. Hamilton, Gardner; George R. Stevens, Belgrade; A. R. Lincoln, Dennyville.

THE NEW YEAR. Ere another number of the *Farmer* reaches its readers, the year 1880 will be a thing of the past, and the new year 1881 will have become a reality.

As a people, throughout the length and breadth of the land, it has been filled with blessings. We had abundant crops, no pestilence or famine visited our country, but peace and plenty reigned. That the new year will be fraught with greater blessings we may well year. The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: A. C. Carr, President; Henry Moore, Secretary; Levi Jones, Treasurer and Collector; J. H. Tinkham, Cashier; K. E. Cushing, Auditor; Nathan Kimball, Board of Directors.

MR. GEORGE R. STRYKES, the Sheriff-elect of Kennebec county, has made the following appointments: Deputies—Asher H. Barton, Benton; Joseph Sipher, Gardner; George H. Bannell, North Yassell; Frank W. Morris, South Yassell; John C. W. Monday, in the meantime, provided the necessary papers, the Sheriff, and the coroner.

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The Markets.

BOSTON CATTLE MARKET.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, December 29.

Amount of stock at market: Cattle, 2649; sheep and lambs, 6400; swine, 14,130; veal, 50.

Prices of beef cattle per 100 lbs., live weight: Extra quality, \$10.87@10.90; first quality, \$10.60@10.70; fancy light 40@42@43; coarse oxen, bulls etc., \$2.00@2.75.

Brighton Hides—\$6 per lb.

Country Hides—7@8¢ per lb.

Calf Skins—\$10@12¢ per lb.

Sheep Skins—\$1.00@1.75 each.

Lamb Skins—\$1.00@1.75 each.

SALES OF CATTLE.

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